



COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Zoom and In-Person Meeting

Council Members Present:

Ted Williams (Chairman), Marti Dobson, Robert Fifer, Martin Lessner, Thomas Holmes, Michael Carey, Herbert Russell

DelDOT Staff

Shanté Hastings, Secretary; Lanie Clymer, Deputy Secretary; Mark Luszczyk, Chief Engineer; Stephanie Johnson, Director, Planning; Anne Brown, Director of Finance; Pamela Steinebach, Director of Maintenance & Operations; Brad Eaby, Deputy Attorney General-DelDOT; Todd Reavis, Director, Technology and Innovation; C.R. McLeod, Community Relations Director; Austin Gray, DelDOT; Anson Gock, DelDOT; Liddy Campbell, DelDOT; Melanie Carlson, DelDOT Finance; Angela Christian, DelDOT Finance; John Sisson, Chief Executive Officer-DTC; Cathy Smith, DTC; Tremica Cherry-Wall, DTC; Ian Peters, DelDOT; Stephen Bayer, DelDOT; Tami Venn, DelDOT; Clare Quinlan, DelDOT; Beth Hermansader, DelDOT; Meghan Niddrie, DelDOT; Jeanette Havel, DelDOT

Guests:

Enos Han, FHWA; Ryan O'Donoghue, FHWA; Tigist Zegeye, WILMAPCO; Marilyn Smith, Dover/Kent MPO; Janelle Cornwell; Jake Thompson; Alex Meitzler; Gary Vorsheim; Sean Matthews, DCA

Agenda Item # 1: Review and Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Ted Williams called the meeting to order and confirmed that a quorum of council members was met. Chairman Williams continued to the agenda and asked for approval of the meeting minutes from the September 8, 2025 Council meeting. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Marty Lessner and seconded by Bobby Fifer. All in favor of approval were made by the Council.

Agenda Item #2: Secretary's Update:

Secretary Hastings provided a PowerPoint presentation on DelDOT updates. Her briefing began with a review of the 2025 Delaware Fatal Crash data as well as the latest Delaware Traffic Fatalities data. Secretary Hastings explained that currently, statistics show an increase in fatalities for 2026, which is up by 50% since this time last year. Secretary Hastings stated that the DelDOT team continues to provide safety improvements to our roads, along with the Office of Highway Safety and Emergency Services and law enforcement. Secretary Hastings also mentioned the Be Delaware Toward Zero Deaths campaign as a way to promote shared responsibility among drivers.

Secretary Hastings continued with an explanation of additional Safety efforts that have been created, called the Safe System Approach. This system approach is to provide additional safety measures for the public. Secretary Hastings explained that two of the main safety measures that are being implemented throughout Delaware roads are the installation of median barriers along the highways to prevent crossover accidents, installing more lighting, and also providing bike and pedestrian enhanced safety measures.

Councilman Lessner asked if DelDOT provides a written product once DelDOT reviews the analytical data received regarding fatal crashes that can provide recommendations to prevent these types of crashes. Secretary Hastings explained that DelDOT has the Strategic Highway Safety Plan, which is a 5-year plan that provides information from the past 5 years on how to address these types of incidents. Secretary Hastings stated that all fatal crash incidents are reported as they occur, and the DelDOT Leadership Team is alerted, and they review the information to acquire additional safety measures. Secretary Hastings explained that Scott Neidert, with the DelDOT Safety Section, compiles all the Safety data, and with this data, a systematic approach can be developed based on the types of crashes that may take place.

Councilman Lessner asked how the crash safety data that is collected correlates with the CTP Safety Factor data and if the proposed projects will improve safety measures. Anson Gock explained that safety scoring plays a big part, which includes data that is provided from several sources: DelDOT; Federal Highway Administration, and the Highway Safety Improvement Program to determine a safety score and provide recommendations based on the crash safety data that is collected. Councilman Lessner asked if an additional column could be added to the CTP Development Plan. Secretary Hastings stated that the CTP Development Plan is based on financial information, whereas the Individual Implementation Plan provides detailed information regarding projects, which includes the total score for each project listed, but we could provide additional information that shows the individual prioritization criteria and what the points provide in the CTP Implementation plan.

Secretary Hastings continued with an explanation of four major categories in which DelDOT is most focused on providing: 1. Safety-providing safety measures for safer roadways; 2. State of Good Repair- providing ongoing repairs to pavement, bridges, sidewalks, and equipment that are useful for the traveling public. 3. Multimodal- focusing on providing quality sidewalks, bike paths, bike lanes, and transit modes of travel for the public. 4. Resiliency- working to provide fewer flooded roadways throughout the state.

Secretary Hastings provided an update on the key roles of the Council on Transportation (COT) with an explanation of the Delaware Code Title 29 Section 8409, which states the Council members serve in an advisory capacity to the Department of Transportation and the Governor; the council oversees and approves the Formula-Based Prioritization Process as well as approves and adopts the six-year DelDOT Capital Transportation Program (CTP). CTP public meetings are held in each of the three counties of Delaware; to provide the draft CTP to the public for review and collect comments from the public, and then the COT council members review the information that is collected before moving on to adopt the CTP, which takes place by March 1st every other year. Secretary Hastings further explained additional key roles of the COT, which include the approval of the Long-Range Transportation Plan as well as approvals for New Alignment Corridors.

Secretary Hastings continued with a summary of the Capital Project Highlights. She provided a brief description of each of the projects, which included projects along the I-95 Corridor, the SR1 Corridor (Northern New Castle County); US40 Corridor; US 13 Corridor; SR1 Corridor (Sussex County); US 9 Corridor; SR 54 Corridor. All the projects discussed can be viewed at the following website: <https://deldot.gov/projects/>

Secretary Hastings moved on to the Capital Program process. Secretary Hastings explained the CTP Biennial Development process and how it is created, which includes ideas from the Local Government, MPOs and the public; the CTP is drafted by DelDOT which is presented during public meetings for public comments; then is reviewed by the Council on Transportation (COT) members and voting takes place; once approved the final step is Bond Bill approval.

Secretary Hastings also shared the DelDOT Projects Portal, where project information is available: <https://deldot.gov/projects/>, as well as using the DelDOT app. Secretary Hastings continued with an explanation of Project Types, Ranked projects vs. Grouped projects. The CTP has responsibility for the Ranked projects, while the Grouped projects are identified and prioritized by DelDOT staff. Secretary Hastings provided examples of Ranked and Group projects. Secretary Hastings moved on to a brief explanation of the Draft CTP Implementation Plan, which takes all of the ranked projects, lists them in order by scores, as well as providing a timeline for each project. Secretary Hastings explained the estimated funding for the Ranked Projects for FY27-FY 32 and also provided a list of major unfunded efforts.

Secretary Hastings moved on with a review of Executive Order #14, Sustainable Transportation Funding Task Force, which addresses long-term challenges impacting the state's Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). The Secretary stated that Councilman Ted Williams is one of the task force members. The Secretary reviewed the list of the duties of the Task Force. The Task Force meets every month.

Agenda Item # 3: Draft FY27-FY32 Capital Transportation Program (CTP)

Austin provided a briefing regarding the Capital Transportation Program (CTP), stating that at the September 2025 COT meeting a copy of the Draft FY27-FY32 Capital Transportation Program (CTP) was presented to the COT council members, as well as the public, for review. Austin continued with a review of the FY27-FY32 CTP Timeline of events that took place, which included the project nomination and funding process, leading up to the public meetings in each county and then finally compiling all the information received and presenting it to the COT members for review and approval. Austin explained that one new project was added to the list of current CTP projects, and it ranked #11, McKee Road/Saulsbury Road Improvements, US13.

Austin continued with a review of the September 2025 Public Meeting Comments. Austin stated that during the three County CTP Public meetings, there were 740 views, 48 participants, and 7 comments received. Austin provided a copy of the comments sheet to all of the COT members during the meeting. Austin also provided a breakdown of comments received regarding the outreach of the meeting, and the total was 7 responders. Austin stated that he is interested in ideas on ways to increase public outreach. Austin also provided a review of updates since September 2025 to the draft FY27-FY32 CTP Project Implementation for Prioritized Projects list. Austin stated the updates are shown in blue on the project list. Some of the projects that were updated are showing funding.

Chairman Ted Williams opened up to the Council on Transportation members to vote on the approval of the Draft FY27-FY32 Capital Transportation Program (CTP). Councilman Ted Williams entertained a motion for approval, a motion was made by Councilwoman Marti Dobson and seconded by Councilman Herbert Russell. All in favor were approved by the Council. Chairman Ted Williams provided a signed approval letter for the Governor on behalf of the Council on Transportation (COT) council members.

Austin explained the next steps include the FY27-FY32 CTP submission to the Governor's office and the General Assembly for inclusion in the FY27 budget. And the FY29-FY34 CTP update process begins in March 2027.

Austin provided a proposed COT 2026 meeting schedule, which includes potential meetings to take place in- Mid May: Mid-August and Mid-November. Chairman Ted Williams explained that since the Transportation Fund Task Force is moving forward with discussions, it may be in the best interest of the COT to meet during these proposed months so that DelDOT can

provide updates to the COT members. Secretary Hastings agreed with the proposed COT meeting dates.

Agenda Item #4 – Public Comment:

Chairman Williams opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were made.

Chairman Williams entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor of the Council members were made. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Liddy Campbell, Recording Secretary